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1	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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5	HELD:	
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7	Monday, February 4, 2019	
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9	LOCATION:	
10	Council Chambers	
11	Scranton City Hall	
12	340 North Washington Avenue	
13	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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23	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL: PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT (Not present) WAYNE EVANS WILLIAM GAUGHAN KYLE DONAHUE LORI REED, CITY CLERK KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK JOHN WILLIAMS, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR 

1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2	moment of reflection observed.)
3	MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.
4	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. (Not
5	preset.) Mr. Donahue.
6	MR. DONAHUE: Here.
7	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
8	MR. EVANS: Here.
9	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
10	MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
11	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
12	MR. ROGAN: Here. Please dispense
13	with the reading of the minutes.
14	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15	MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH &
16	WELFARE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD OCTOBER 18,
17	2018.
18	MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
19	If not, received and filed.
20	Do any council members have any
21	announcements at this time? I have one just
22	one, an executive session was held this
23	evening regarding a matter of litigation.
24	MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
25	PARTICIPATION.

(The following speakers offered public comment as follows: Joan Hodowanitz spoke on city business. Lee Morgan spoke on city business and matters of general concern. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of general concern. Jay Walsh spoke on matters of general concern.)

MS. REED: 5-A. MOTIONS.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Donahue, any motions or comments?

MR. DONAHUE: As was mentioned before on Friday night I had the opportunity of stopping at the opening of the Black Scranton Projects Remembering and Understanding the Heritage of Black Scrantonians exhibit at the Marketplace at Steamtown, and I must say that Glynnis Johns did an absolutely tremendous job putting it all together and I encourage everyone to check it out if you get a chance. The exhibit is on the second floor of the Marketplace until Thursday, February 28.

Moving on, over two months ago council approved a ten-year tax abatement on all new construction in order incentivize

economic development in the city. The school district approved that same legislation about two weeks after we did so the last piece of the puzzle is for the county to pass the legislation but it has not yet been placed on their agenda and I can't think of any logical reason yet why they haven't put it on there especially since they have approved similar legislation throughout the county.

So, Mrs. Reed, would you be able to send a letter to the commissioners asking when and/or if they plan on putting LERTA legislation for the City of Scranton on their agenda? Thank you.

And, also, last week Governor Wolf announced a major new infrastructure initiative called Restore Pennsylvania which will invest \$4.5 billion to be funded by a common sense severance tax on natural gas productions. Pennsylvania is the only major producing -- only major natural gas producing state who does not levy a severance tax. This plan would not only reinvest severance tax proceeds into

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infrastructure for the betterment of all Pennsylvanians, but certain aspects of this plan can certainly benefit the residents of Scranton. There were a total of five priority infrastructure areas that were outlined in the governor's proposal. just going to highlight the four of them that could have the biggest impact on the City of Scranton. The first one is storm preparedness and disaster recovery. That includes critical flood control infrastructure such as stream and bank restoration, which is the responsibility of the city as well as dams, levies and flood walls, helping families rebuild by creating a disaster relief trust fund to assist individuals that don't qualify for compensation by FEMA or other programs, and it also helps with storm water infrastructure. A storm water plan is going to be mandated so it's coming whether we like it or not and, quite frankly, we are going to need all the help we are going to get.

Another part of it is demolition,

funding for blight demolition and redevelopment, brown field clean up, containment, remediation and green infrastructure, and then the other two that I think could be beneficial to the city is transportation capital projects and also high speed internet access.

These are areas that municipalities

revitalization renewal which includes

These are areas that municipalities all across the state are struggling to find realistic ways to finances these projects that must be done and are mandated to be done and it's encouraging that we have a governor who recognizes these challenges and is willing to take the lead to address them. Thank you. That's all I have.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans, any motions or comments?

MR. EVANS: Yes, briefly. I also attended as was talked about before the Black Scranton Project on First Friday at Steamtown Marketplace. I have to tell you it was very informative and a well done history of black history in Scranton and I would like to recognize and thank Glynnis

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Johns for all of the hard work, dedication and vision she has put into this effort.

For her, it really is a true labor of love.

So, Glynnis, we are all very proud of you for all the hard work you did not only for your community but for all of Scranton.

I'd like to comment briefly as well on some comments made last week from a speaker about our change to Monday meetings. I think they needed a little further clarification. First of all, I'd like to thank Councilman Perry relative to Monday meetings and his work schedule. Historically city council meetings have been changed to different days because of city council members schedules so this is nothing However, the latest conspiracy theory new. that it was done just to have less meetings is absurd. So, for the record, in 2017 when city council met on Thursday we had 42 regular council meetings. 2018 when we changed to Mondays there were 38 regular council meetings, plus the scheduled work session and two scheduled idea sessions all the while entertaining 140 different pieces

of legislation so it would appear that we had one less public meeting last year than the year before.

So, as I have stated in the past and I will repeat it again tonight, I think me may have too many regular city council meetings, and clearly we are the city, the outlier, as compared to other cities throughout Pennsylvania that are our size I'm not saying that we have too many meetings, I'm saying we may have too many regular city council meetings and I'll fully explain that in my comments, but first I'd like to repeat the results of a study that I did earlier in the year on city council meetings for those that did not hear those comments or simply weren't listening.

Allentown city council meets twice a month on thee first and third Wednesdays.

Altoona city council meets once a month on the second Wednesday. Bethlehem city council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays. Easton city council meets twice a month on the second and four Wednesdays. Erie city council meets twice a

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month on the first Wednesday at 9 a.m., and the third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Harrisburg city council meets twice a month for a regular city council meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays, but they also meet on the first and third Tuesdays for a work session. Hazelton city council meets twice a month for nine months and once a month for three months. Lancaster city council meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Reading city council meets twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays. Wilkes-Barre city council meets twice a month for the regular city council meeting on the second and fourth Thursday and then they meet on the second and fourth Tuesday for a work session. Finally, York city council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday.

So clearly we are the exception as far as our meeting schedule is concerned.

Regular city council meetings are twice a month in every city reviewed and only two city councils meet beyond that, Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre that add two monthly work

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sessions to their schedule of two meetings per month. As I have said repeatedly, I personally feel that two regular city council meetings along with two work sessions monthly that Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg currently do is the most It allows for efficient meeting schedule. work sessions to be scheduled days or even a week before a regular city council meeting allowing for the council to more fully discuss agenda items prior to introduction as well as to have a more in-depth discussion on pressing city business. Ιt also allows city council to bring a special guest for conversations and valuable debate on a more regular basis. So to me this is a meeting model that promotes more efficient and effective city government.

Now, I'm not proposing that right now, because it may take a Home Rule Charter revision to even do that, but I think it's something people to need to know how I feel about this because I think these meetings are valuable, they are absolutely valuable for a lot of different reasons, but, you

know, we have taken it a little too far.

And all of our work sessions, by the way, if we went that route would be on city council -- or would be on public view, the press would be here, ECTV would be here, we would be sitting right at that table, but the fallacy that our weekly meetings are all that city council members do is another thing that irks me week in and week out. I can tell you over the last four plus years that I have been on city council that this meeting probably accounts for 5 to 15 percent of an average week with the time spent on city business, and I'm sure my colleagues could agree with that as far as their schedules are concerned as well.

So, yes, I will repeat, these meetings are absolutely important. They are the mechanism that we use to get the city's business through passing or rejecting legislation as well as providing input and information to citizens and taxpayers. I get it. The question is can we do better? And that's all, I'll just leave it at that.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

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Mr. Gaughan, any motions or comments?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. of all, I just want to thank Leslie Collins from Scranton Tomorrow, Tim Maloney from Scranton Tomorrow for coming in and giving us a presentation and update on all of the different things that is currently going on with that organization. I was really impressed with the presentation. I do think that that organization is trying to improve the city and I think the city is go ing to be better off for all of the commitments that they he have made and all of the work that they have done and that they will continue to do so I want to thank them for that.

The Serrenti Center has come up multiple times and we did receive a response from Mr. Bulzoni, and I know Ms. Hodowanitz was curious about it so I'll read a portion of it. I didn't get a chance to go through all of the numbers, but I will do that next week. The technology component of the overhaul of the building was completed by city personnel. Mr. Bulzoni said that the

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delineation of costs remained since the principal project components have yet to be undertaken. Relative to the poll barn that I asked about last week, the estimated cost The intent of the pole barn is is \$18,000. generally to clean up and store items which are either needed on sight or are transient. The cost is included in the police capital Other components of improvements to budget. the police headquarter's site are sidewalk improvements, resurfacing of the parking lot and the ESCO component or energy upgrades. The ESCO component will be funded by an energy least incorporating the police, public works, and public safety buildings. There is a comprehensive project at the police department headquarters to clean up the property. As I mentioned, it will include sidewalk reconstruction, the pole barn, paving of the lot, savings to the building. At the Serrenti Center, Mr. Bulzoni reports that they have incorporated storage space for training and offices. There is consideration being given to vacate the structure on Ash Street, which

is the city owns, and moving that to the Serrenti and ultimately getting rid of the Ash Street property all together so they may save money there. And, like I said, he did give me a break down, I just haven't ha da chance to go through it yet, but I would be more than happy to give you a copy of this, so that is the Serrenti Center update.

I didn't get a chance to talk with my colleagues in the caucus because we didn't end up having enough time, but I would expect week like to carve out some time to talk about what the appointment process will look like for the Ethics Board. I did have a brief conversation on the way out of the caucus with the city solicitor. We may want to try to do this in tandem with the administration because they get two appointments, the controller gets one and city council gets two, so we will hopefully have more news on that next week.

Also, I want to thank Mrs. Reed for putting together a document, also didn't get a chance to talk about this in the caucus, but as I mentioned a few weeks ago we are

trying to embark on an internship program with the University of Scranton and then open that up to any other local colleges and universities, so we did -- Mrs. Reed is working on this and I really appreciate that, so we will have a chance to talk about it hopefully in the caucus next week, and then we will have to set up a meeting with Mrs. Cohen from the University, I already met with her once and they are very excited to have their students involved in city government. And that's all I have this week. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a couple of brief items, I know Mr. Gaughan mentioned this, I do want to thank Scranton Tomorrow's representatives for coming in and giving us their quarterly update on many of the activities they have been doing in our downtown. I know I mentioned this a couple of weeks ago, but I everyone who lives in the city to on a Friday night take a walk through our downtown, especially if you haven't in awhile. There really has been tremendous growth and it's been driven by

almost exclusively by small locally owned businesses that are in our downtown. So anyone who hasn't had an opportunity to take a stroll through the downtown recently please do so. Go to the areas you haven't been on in awhile. I mentioned Penn Avenue a couple of weeks ago and at first my frustration of not being able to find a parking spot became the light when I realized that's a good problem to have at night in a vibrant city, so that's definitely something that is positive and I urge everyone to take that opportunity.

I'm very encouraged, also, with
Scranton Tomorrow and many of the
partnerships that they are creating and
trying to leverage many of the items that
not only council has done but have been done
on the state, local and federal level to
encourage downtown development. One of the
biggest opportunities is the combination of
the LERTA that was passed by city council,
and I agree with Councilman Donahue, I would
urge the county commissioners to pass that
legislation as well. That abatement

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combined with part of the opportunities zone that are through our downtown really are a golden opportunity for developers to come in and invest in our city. There are vacant tracks of land downtown that are parking lots that could be developed and many of these incentives working with different nonprofits, working with the Chamber of Commerce, if they are developed that's really going to be a big hit for our downtown.

One last item. I know one of the speakers brought it up, Linda Aebli, our OECD director is going to being retiring, I want to take an opportunity also to thank her for her service to the city. When I was elected to council and up until just last year I was the chairman for OECD so I worked with Linda for many years and we had a great working relationship through two administrations and she really will be missed. She did a great job for the city, so we wish her well in all her future endeavors and her retirement. Thank you.

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -

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AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAYS NECESSARY FOR THE MULTI-BRIDGE PROJECT DOCUMENT NO. 04M173.

MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

MR. EVANS: So moved.

MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

MR. ROGAN: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question, we voted on legislation regarding this multi-bridge project that's being funded mostly through the state back in 2018, actually on November 27, and this is simply the state coming in and proceeding with the acquisition of the necessary right-of-ways, and just a remind everyone, the bridges that are going to be updated and fixed and replaced in some cases are the West Lackawanna Avenue bridge over the railroad, Elm Street bridge over the Lackawanna River, North Main Avenue bridge over Leggett's Creek, and Parker Street over the Lackawanna River. This will be the acquisition of the

1 right-of-ways by the state, it will be paid for 100 percent by the combination of 2 3 federal funds available through the surface transportation plan, state funds and we did 4 5 carve out some dollars in the 2018 capital 6 budget. Thank you. MR. ROGAN: 7 Anyone else? All those 8 in favor signify by saying aye. 9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. 10 MR. EVANS: Aye. 11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 12 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 13 have it and so moved. 14 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -15 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH J. 16 EARYES, 138 LAKEVIEW DRIVE, SCRANTON, 17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE 18 HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD EFFECTIVE 19 JANUARY 22, 2019. MR. EARYES IS BEING APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL 20 21 EXPIRE ON JANUARY 22, 2024. 22 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll 23 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be 24 introduced into its proper committee.

MR. EVANS:

So moved.

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1 MR. GAUGHAN: Second. MR. ROGAN: On the question? 2 A11 3 those in favor of introduction signify by saying aye. 4 5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. MR. EVANS: Aye. 6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 7 8 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 9 have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -10 11 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF KELEENA 12 MCNICHOLS, 1310 CORNELL STREET, SCRANTON, 13 PA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE 14 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 15 18, 2019. MS. MCNICHOLS WILL BE REPLACING 16 GOPAL PATEL WHO RESIGNED DECEMBER 21, 2018. 17 MS. MCNICHOLS WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM 18 OF GOPAL PATEL, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO 19 EXPIRE ON JANUARY 4, 2022. 20 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll 21 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be 22 introduced into its proper committee. 23 MR. EVANS: So moved. 24 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

MR. ROGAN: On the question?

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1	those in favor of introduction signify by
2	saying aye.
3	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
4	MR. EVANS: Aye.
5	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
6	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
7	have it and so moved.
8	MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9	A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
10	OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
11	("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
12	APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN COMPANY,
13	1979 SCRANTON CARBONDALE HIGHWAY, BLAKELY,
14	PA 18447, FOR SIGNAGE WORK TO BE COMPLETED
15	ON THE FRONT EDIFICE OF THE EVERHART MUSEUM,
16	SITUATED AT 1901 MULBERRY STREET, SCRANTON,
17	PA 18510.
18	MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
19	entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
20	introduced into its proper committee.
21	MR. EVANS: So moved.
22	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
23	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
24	those in favor Signify by saying aye.
25	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1	MR. EVANS: Aye.
2	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
3	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4	have it and so moved.
5	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
6	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7	52, 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A "NO
8	PARKING" ZONE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF
9	LACKAWANNA AND JEFFERSON AVENUE (S.R.3018)
10	FROM SEGMENT 0010 OFFSET 0300 (KRESSLER
11	COURT INTERSECTION) EXTENDING NORTH TO A
12	DRIVEWAY, AT SEGMENT 0010 OFFSET 0630.
13	MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
14	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
15	MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-A
16	pass reading by title.
17	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
18	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
19	those in favor signify by saying aye.
20	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
21	MR. EVANS: Aye.
22	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
23	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
24	have it and so moved.
25	MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 53, 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE 2 SUBMISSION OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE 3 4 OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S FIVE 5 YEAR REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, 6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA). 7 8 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by 9 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure? 10 MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-B 11 pass reading by title. 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Second. 13 MR. ROGAN: On the question? A11 14 those in favor signify by saying aye. 15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. MR. EVANS: Aye. 16 17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 19 have it and so moved. MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -20 21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 54, 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER 22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO DISBURSE SIX 23 24 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,000.00) FROM THE UDAG 25 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT INTO WHICH URBAN

2	ARE DEPOSITED. THIS WILL COVER THE CITY OF
3	SCRANTON'S SHARE OF COSTS FOR THE UNITED
4	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN
5	PENNSYLVANIA TO ADMINISTER THE
6	CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR LACKAWANNA COUNTY
7	DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE
8	30, 2019.
9	MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
10	title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?
11	MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-C
12	pass reading by title.
13	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
14	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
15	those in favor signify by saying aye.
16	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
17	MR. EVANS: Aye.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
19	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
20	have it and so moved.
21	MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22	CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
23	FOR ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 95, 2019 -
24	AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 86, 2018 ENTITLED
25	"AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS (UDAG) REPAYMENTS

1	CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
2	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN
3	THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND LOCAL UNION NO. 60
4	OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE
5	FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO"; TO INCLUDE ONLY THE IME
6	PANEL OF PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY PENSIONS
7	MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
8	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
9	passage of Item 7-A.
10	MR. EVANS: Second.
11	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
12	call, please?
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.
14	MR. DONAHUE: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
16	MR. EVANS: Yes.
17	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
19	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
20	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
21	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
22	MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
23	BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
24	RESOLUTION NO. 96, 2019 - AUTHORIZING THE
25	MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

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1	TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF
2	UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF
3	SCRANTON AND LODGE NO. 2 OF THE FRATERNAL
4	ORDER OF POLICE BY AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE
5	MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 11, 2016
6	REGARDING DISABILITY PENSIONS.
7	MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
8	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
9	passage of Item 7-B.
10	MR. EVANS: Second.
11	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
12	call, please?
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.
14	MR. DONAHUE: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
16	MR. EVANS: Yes.
17	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
19	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
20	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
21	Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.
22	If there is no further business,
23	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
24	MR. EVANS: Motion to adjourn.
25	MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER